



New England Power Company

November 4, 2003

Dear Neighbor,

Enclosed you will find a fact sheet for the proposed construction of new facilities at our Wachusett substation in the community of West Boylston. You are an abutter to the substation and as such, you also will be notified of the various permits we will request from local and state boards.

As part of the permitting process and to provide you additional information about our project, New England Power, a subsidiary of National Grid, will hold an open house for you and your neighbors to come and review our proposed plans and ask questions about the project. We will have representatives from the company available at the open house who can address your questions and concerns.

If you are unable to attend, please feel free to contact me to discuss the project or arrange to meet at your convenience.

The open house will be held on Thursday, November 13, 2003 at The Manor, 39 Franklin Street (Rt.12), West Boylston from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm. Light appetizers and soft drinks will be served.

We hope to see you on the 13<sup>th</sup> and look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

John G. Upham, II  
Director, Municipal Customer Relations

National Grid  
55 Bearfoot Road  
Northborough, MA 01532  
Phone: 508-357-4675

## **Proposed Wachusett Substation Upgrade, West Boylston**

### **Introduction**

During the last several years, demand for electricity in central Massachusetts has increased substantially, primarily due to commercial and industrial growth in a number of communities.

New England Power, a National Grid subsidiary, recently conducted a study of the electricity transmission system in central Massachusetts to determine the best way to keep pace with the electrical needs of the area. We have concluded that an upgrade of our Wachusett substation at 53 Temple Street, West Boylston, is required for us to continue to provide reliable service, have adequate electricity capacity and allow us to meet the area's future electrical needs.

The Wachusett substation began serving central Massachusetts customers in the early 1970s. It is connected to our 115-kilovolt transmission system and 69-kilovolt lines that feed local substations. Its primary job is to convert power to a voltage usable by the smaller, local substations that ultimately supply customers in West Boylston, Holden and the greater Worcester area. The Wachusett substation currently houses one transformer.

### **Proposed Improvements**

The substation upgrades we plan would take place on New England Power Company property and would include installation of five new transformers. Four new steel structures, similar to what is currently located in the substation also will be installed to support the lines. Additionally, plans call for installation of two new prefabricated buildings that will house new circuit breakers and other associated electrical equipment. In order to add the new transformers, new buildings and the required associated equipment, we will need to expand the existing substation area by approximately three acres – less than one-quarter of the size of our existing property area. (*See reverse side.*) No new transmission lines would be required under this project. However, we do plan to upgrade several transmission lines in various other central Massachusetts locations to complement this project and help us continue to provide reliable service for the area.

### **Project Timetable**

Contingent upon approvals, construction and installation of the proposed additional equipment is expected to begin in late 2004. It will take approximately 16 months to complete.

We are available to meet with you at your convenience to discuss our proposed project. Additionally, we plan to hold an open house to provide more information. In the meantime, if you have any questions or would like more information about the project, please contact John Upham, director of municipal customer relations at 508-357-4675.



**National Grid**



Wachusett Substation, West Boylston

